

UKRAINE – CONFLICT

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

APRIL 27, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

1.2 million

Registered Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – April 2015

801,300

Number of People Displaced to Neighboring Countries
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – April 2015

5 million

Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance
Revised 2015 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan – February 2015

6,100

Documented Number of Deaths Resulting from the Conflict
OCHA – April 2015

934,000

Number of IDPs in Five Most Affected Oblasts
OCHA – April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN reports an increase in clashes throughout April, while continued displacement strains host community resources
- Assessment identifies lack of financial resources as primary reason conflict-affected families are unable to meet household needs
- U.S. Vice President Biden meets with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to reiterate U.S. Government (USG) commitment to the humanitarian response

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO UKRAINE IN FY 2014 & FY 2015

| | |
|--|--------------|
| USAID/OFDA ¹ | \$17,424,410 |
| USAID/FFP ² | \$10,000,000 |
| State/PRM ³ | \$16,075,000 |
| \$43,499,410 TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE | |

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Violence between Government of Ukraine (GoU) and separatist forces escalated in areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts during April, according to the UN. Insecurity and bureaucratic challenges are limiting humanitarian access in conflict-affected areas, while limited availability of social services is straining resources in both non-government controlled areas (NGCAs) and GoU-controlled territory.
- On March 30, the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS)—an initiative of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum in Kyiv—released the findings of its multi-sector needs assessment, which surveyed IDPs and conflict-affected households in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya oblasts between late February and early March 2015. The assessment is the first comprehensive effort to obtain data on conflict-related humanitarian needs. ACAPS found significant needs among all affected populations, but that humanitarian indicators are most severe in the NGCAs. A lack of financial resources—particularly among pension-dependent populations—to pay for essential goods and services is the main driver of needs. Inside the NGCAs, sustained conflict has caused a significant deterioration in availability of health services, safe drinking water, and—increasingly—food stocks.
- On April 20, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to discuss the crisis, according to international media. To date in FY 2014/2015, the USG has committed nearly \$43.5 million to the humanitarian response in Ukraine.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate in both GoU-controlled areas and NGCAs, despite the recent end of the winter months. The UN highlights that rising food prices and suspension of salary and pension payments in NGCAs are increasing humanitarian needs. In addition, protection—particularly for IDPs, older people, and other vulnerable populations—is becoming an increasing concern among humanitarian actors.
- The UN reports increased fighting in April, noting almost daily clashes between GoU and separatist forces in proximity to Donetsk and Mariupol cities in Donetsk Oblast and Luhansk city in Luhansk Oblast, among other areas. The humanitarian community continues to stress the importance of contingency planning for an uptick in needs given the recent escalation of violence and in anticipation of a potential further deterioration in security. At present, each Cluster—the coordinating bodies for sector-specific humanitarian activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—are leading preparedness efforts among members. For example, the Shelter/Non-Food Item Cluster is assessing relief commodity stocks in warehouses in eastern Ukraine, and Protection Cluster members are reviewing lessons learned from the 2014 response to determine how a forthcoming effort might be more effective.
- As of April 20, the GoU had registered more than 1.2 million IDPs in Ukraine, including more than 941,100 IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya oblasts. UNHCR reports that more than 801,000 people had sought refuge in neighboring countries, 82 percent of whom were residing in Russia, as of April 24.
- The UN highlights that restricted access—due to insecurity and bureaucratic impediments—is preventing the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to areas along the border of GoU-controlled territory and the NGCAs, as well as an overall need to expand humanitarian assistance beyond big cities to more rural locations. NGOs have highlighted the need for providing assistance to approximately 500 extremely vulnerable civilians residing in Nikishino town, Donetsk, where at least 150 houses are completely destroyed and more than 90 are severely damaged. During a recent assessment of Nikishino, an NGO identified transitional shelter materials and in-kind food distributions as a priority need for this population. NGOs stress that Nikishino is representative of the humanitarian conditions in several difficult-to-access areas of the NGCAs that likely require immediate interventions.
- Although the humanitarian community is able to identify specific locations inside the NGCAs with acute needs when access allows, the magnitude of need countrywide continues to be large, and requires a persistent, strategic response by all relief organizations, NGOs in Kiev report. In the coming months, humanitarian actors will continue to respond to emergent needs while maintaining assistance to IDPs, host communities, and other vulnerable conflict-affected groups.
- In recent months, international NGOs have been scaling up their emergency presence in Ukraine, conducting assessments to define assistance needs among conflict-affected communities, and partnering with local NGOs and community-based organizations to increase emergency response capacity. The Clusters continue to decentralize operations and coordination to eastern Ukraine as part of a response-wide effort to improve the humanitarian effort in conflict-affected areas.

PROTECTION

- The UN reports increased tension in hosting areas, as residents cite strains on social services and limited resources due to the influx of IDPs. Furthermore, IDPs are hesitant to return to NGCAs, indicating concerns of being targeted in home areas and at risk of property loss or damage, as well as inability to access social benefits or services.
- Relief agencies in Ukraine have reported concerns of trauma among populations still inside the NGCAs, IDPs in GoU-controlled territory, and host community members, meriting a targeted response. The Protection and Health clusters, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection sub-Clusters, and Mental Health Working Group are working together to harmonize response activities for psychosocial support and mental health. Pre-crisis, Ukraine had social workers, psychologists, counselors, and mental health professionals as part of the workforce; however, these specialists and many relief actors require training in international protocols and best practices for both psychosocial support and mental health in the humanitarian context. Both protection and mental health interventions are essential for the emergency response: conflict-affected populations, particularly children, endure significant physical and emotional stress and need psychosocial services to overcome trauma, while mental health issues require specific medical support.

- Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—partners have provided psychosocial support to an estimated 19,000 children since January 1, including nearly 6,400 children during the first two weeks of April. The Protection Cluster is co-led by State/PRM partner UNHCR; the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights also co-leads.
- The Protection Cluster is translating the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action* into Russian to help strengthen common understanding of child protection among partners in eastern Ukraine. Through prior year funding, USAID/OFDA supported the development and dissemination of these standards to the global humanitarian community.
- In recent weeks, a USAID/OFDA partner has scaled up its humanitarian protection activities in GoU-controlled and NGCAs of eastern Ukraine. The partner, through local organizations, is training social workers, teachers, law enforcement, and other key community members on international best practices for protecting children and responding to GBV. The partner also conducted trainings on psychological first aid for school counselors and psychologists.
- The conflict-affected elderly inside the NGCAs remain particularly vulnerable, as many are unable to access pension benefits—often their only source of income and critical for affording essential medical, food, rent, and other expenses. As of July 2014, nearly 12.8 million people were receiving pensions in Ukraine, according to the GoU. A Ukrainian NGO reported that, as of November, IDPs seeking pensions needed to supply numerous application documents—proof of employment history, data on personal insurance, and taxpayer registration cards, among others—to receive payments in their new location; when lacking these materials, some IDPs have been unable to obtain pensions.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting multiple partners to provide urgent relief commodities and protection assistance to the most-vulnerable populations both in the NGCAs and in GoU-controlled territory, including the elderly.

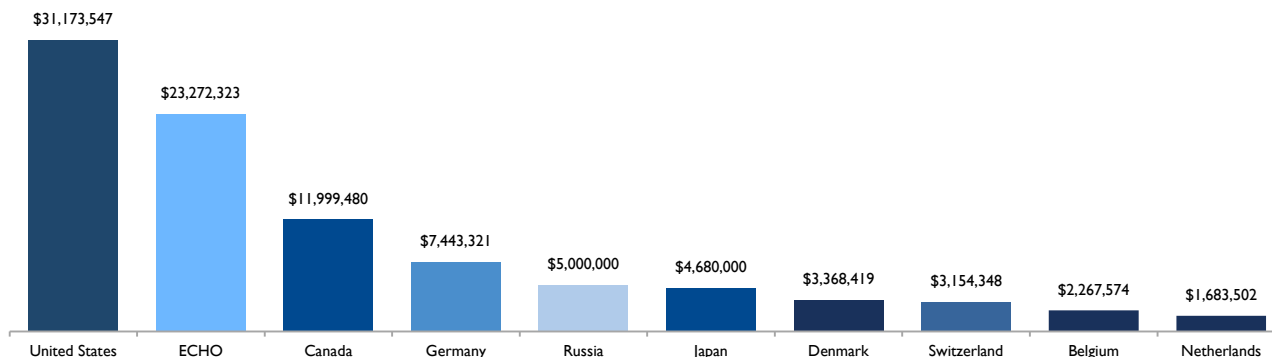
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The UN reports that food insecurity has increased in eastern Ukraine, particularly in NGCAs, since late 2014 due to decreased food stocks and a rise in food prices, which has thereby decreased food consumption and variety. Furthermore, social services to provide food to vulnerable populations are significantly reduced in NGCAs. Food Security Cluster assessment results of conflict-affected areas in Donetsk and Luhansk indicate insecurity, damaged agriculture infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying the planting season, which could further contribute to food insecurity in the coming months. According to the Food Security Cluster, more than 670,000 people currently require food assistance, nearly 90 percent of whom are residing in NGCAs.
- A recent 10-day UN World Food Program (WFP) assessment of food security in the NGCAs and the buffer zone identified a need for improved targeting and market and supply chain assessments, as well as advocated caution regarding soup kitchens, which could inadvertently support armed actors.
- During February and March, State/PRM partner the International Committee of the Red Cross provided food assistance to approximately 120,000 people in Donetsk and Luhansk, including more than 3,500 hospital patients, children residing in orphanages, and people residing in homes for the elderly.
- There is relatively little data on the nutritional status of conflict-affected Ukrainians. Several NGOs have noted that prolonged lack of dietary diversity—due more to exorbitant produce price increases and mobility restrictions preventing market access than availability of items—among populations in the NGCAs and the buffer zone could worsen nutritional status. The Nutrition sub-Cluster is focusing on breastfeeding practices—ACAPs reports only 20 percent of mothers exclusively breastfeed infants from birth to five months of age—among affected groups, particularly given reports of the distribution of inappropriate breast milk substitutes without nutritionist guidance.
- In April, USAID/FFP provided \$7 million to WFP to assist food-insecure people in eastern Ukraine through the distribution of food vouchers and locally-procured food. WFP is targeting the most vulnerable individuals, including IDPs, the disabled, elderly, and chronically ill individuals; and female-headed households.

HEALTH AND WASH

- The UN cites limited access to health care as a significant concern throughout conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine, as well as the need for critical medicines to treat chronic illnesses. The level of available medicines in pharmacies varies throughout affected areas, with some having medicines in stock and others having extremely limited supplies. Humanitarian organizations identify constraints regarding imports of certified pharmaceuticals, noting a limited number of international organizations registered to import essential medicines.
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are currently the only international organizations supporting medical care and resupplying pharmaceuticals inside the NGCAs. Since April 2014, MSF mobile clinics have treated 20,000 wounded persons and provided thousands of psychosocial consultations inside the NGCAs. The UN World Health Organization is operating 12 mobile clinics in GoU-controlled areas of Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Luhansk oblasts through local and international partners.
- Multiple humanitarian actors in Ukraine underscore that the particularly high proportion of conflict-affected elderly Ukrainians has generated significant need for medicines that treat chronic illnesses, such as hypertension and diabetes. This dynamic is likely worse inside the NGCAs. There is a lack of data on how many older Ukrainians remain inside the NGCAs; however, NGOs working in eastern Ukraine estimate this number to be in the several thousands.
- The UN reports damage to numerous water supply networks in Luhansk, including Bryanka, Kirovsk, Pervomaisk, and Stakhanov districts, as well as in Novoazovsk district in Donetsk. In response, the GoU distributed 7,000 liters of safe drinking water to nearly 1,300 people in Luhansk. In addition, WASH Cluster partners have distributed hygiene kits, benefiting more than 20,000 people in NGCAs, during the past month.

2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of April 27, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect commitments based on FY 2014 and FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2013 and October 1, 2014, respectively.

CONTEXT

- Since March 2014, conflict between the GoU military and separatists has escalated in eastern Ukraine, causing widespread damage to infrastructure and large-scale population displacement. The heaviest fighting has occurred in the easternmost oblasts bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; however, the large influx of IDPs has negatively affected neighboring oblasts.
- As of April 2015, the UN estimated that the conflict had displaced nearly 2 million people. As many as 5.1 million people remained in conflict-affected oblasts of eastern Ukraine, where the volatile security environment has impeded access by humanitarian actors.
- On October 29, 2014, U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt re-issued a disaster declaration for Ukraine due to the continued humanitarian needs of IDPs and vulnerable populations affected by conflict between GoU forces and pro-opposition forces in eastern Ukraine.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA² | | | |
| OCHA | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management | Countrywide | \$700,000 |
| Implementing Partners | Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | | \$9,999,324 |
| | Program Support | | \$74,250 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE | | | \$10,773,574 |
| USAID/FFP | | | |
| WFP | Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Food Vouchers | Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts | \$10,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE | | | \$10,000,000 |
| STATE/PRM | | | |
| UNHCR | Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements | Countrywide | \$10,400,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE | | | \$10,400,000 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE IN FY 2015 | | | \$31,173,574 |

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE PROVIDED IN FY 2014

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| USAID/OFDA | | | |
| OCHA | Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements | Countrywide | \$271,536 |
| Implementing Partners | Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements | Eastern Ukraine, Kiev | \$6,250,000 |
| | Program Support | | \$129,300 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE | | | \$6,650,836 |
| STATE/PRM | | | |
| ICRC | Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements | Countrywide | \$2,300,000 |
| IOM | Logistics and Relief Commodities, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH | Countrywide | \$405,000 |

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|--|---|-------------|---------------------|
| UN Population Fund (UNFPA) | Health, Protection | Countrywide | \$120,000 |
| UNHCR | Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements | Countrywide | \$2,850,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE | | | \$5,675,000 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE IN FY 2014 | | | \$12,325,836 |

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|--|--|--|---------------------|
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE IN FY 2014 AND FY 2015 | | | \$43,499,410 |
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² Funding represents funding amounts as of April 27, 2015.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>